

Replacement Page 5

Switching Device for Controlling at Least Two Motors

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a switching device ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~ for controlling at least two motors.

In practice, there are many servo axes that are needed only rarely or are not needed at the same time. Such rarely needed servo axes are, for example, drives for machine (re)configuration that are used, for example, only when changing the product. In the case of other machines, kinetics or safety can prohibit that certain servo axes carry out movements at the same time.

It is known that each motor is provided with its own converter. This results in significant costs.

A conventional servo drive is comprised inter alia of a servo converter with an output stage (power amplifier) and the correlated control electronics, a motor, a position/rotary speed sensor or acceleration sensor as feedback for the motor control, a motor temperature sensor, and an optional holding brake. The sensor is usually mounted directly on the motor shaft. The optional holding brake is generally provided on the motor shaft. Servo converters for one axis and converters for several axes in one housing are known. In any case, each motor has an output stage or a servo converter assigned thereto.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to configure the switching device of the aforementioned kind such that in a constructively simple and inexpensive way several motors can be operated sequentially.

In accordance with the invention, this object is solved for the switching device of the

aforementioned kind in that the motors have correlated therewith a single converter to which is connected at least one logic module that evaluates signals received from the converter and generates a control signal with which the desired motor is controllable ~~with the characterizing features of claim 1.~~

REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS STARTING PAGE 6, LINE 25, TO PAGE 7, LINE 5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be explained in more detail with the aid of three embodiments illustrated in the drawings. It is shown in:

- Fig. 1 a first embodiment of a switching device according to the invention;
- Fig. 2 a second embodiment of a switching device according to the invention;
- Fig. 3 a third embodiments of a switching device according to the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS